

the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General shall, to the extent authorized by law, support the duties of the Commission by providing information, intelligence, analysis, recommendations, estimates, and statistics directly to the Commission, upon request made by the chair of the Commission, the chair of any subcommittee created by a majority of the Commission, or any member designated by a majority of the Commission.

(iii) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In addition to the assistance prescribed in clause (i), departments and agencies of the United States may provide to the Commission such services, funds, facilities, staff, and other support services as they may determine advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(E) DECLASSIFICATION OF INTELLIGENCE RELATED TO COVID-19.—

(i) COMMENCEMENT OF REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in coordination with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the heads of such other elements of the intelligence community as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, commence a declassification review of any and all information the Commission determines necessary relating to the origin of COVID-19.

(ii) COMPLETION OF REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, the Director of National Intelligence shall complete the review described in clause (i) and determine what additional information relating to the origin of COVID-19 can be appropriately declassified and shared with the public.

(iii) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress an unclassified report that contains the additional information described in clause (ii) with only such redactions as the Director determines necessary to protect sources and methods without altering or obscuring such information.

(F) GIFTS.—The Commission may not accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(G) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as departments and agencies of the United States.

(6) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(B) PRESUMPTION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS.—

(i) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.—The Commission shall make its hearings and meetings open to the public unless the chair and vice chair determine by consensus, on a case-by-case basis, that the hearing or meeting should be closed to the public.

(ii) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Any public meeting or hearing of the Commission shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of information provided to or developed for or by the Commission as required by any applicable statute, regulation, or Executive order.

(7) STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION.—The chair, in consultation with the vice chair, in accordance with rules agreed upon by the Commission, may appoint and fix the compensation of a staff director and such other personnel as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its functions, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the

competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no rate of pay fixed under this subsection may exceed the equivalent of that payable for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code. The chair shall ensure that any internships with the Commission are paid positions.

(ii) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The staff director and any personnel of the Commission who are employees shall be employees under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, for purposes of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 85, 87, 89, and 90 of that title.

(II) MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.—Subclause (I) shall not be construed to apply to members of the Commission.

(B) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(C) CONSULTANT SERVICES.—The Commission is authorized to procure the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed the daily rate paid a person occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(8) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commission may be compensated at not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day during which that member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Commission.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(9) SECURITY CLEARANCES FOR COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF.—The appropriate Federal agencies or departments shall cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to the Commission members and staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided with access to classified information under this section without the appropriate security clearances.

(10) REPORTS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress, and make publicly available, an interim report containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures as have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the date described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress, and make publicly available, a final report containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective measures as have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members.

(C) DEADLINE.—

(i) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this clause is 20 months after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission, unless not fewer than 8 members of the Commission

vote for an extension of not more than 120 days.

(ii) NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS.—The Commission may make not more than 1 extension under clause (i).

(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Commission shall notify the President, Congress, and the public of each extension under clause (i).

(11) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, and all the authorities of this section, shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the final report is submitted under paragraph (10)(B).

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES BEFORE TERMINATION.—The Commission may use the 90-day period referred to in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning its reports, disseminating the final report, and explaining to the public such reports and the conclusions of the Commission.

(12) FUNDING.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary for any fiscal year.

(B) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available to the Commission under subparagraph (A) shall remain available until the termination of the Commission.

(C) NOTICE.—The chair shall promptly notify Congress if the chair determines that the amounts made available to the Commission under subparagraph (A) are insufficient for the Commission to carry out its duties, including during an extended period described in paragraph (10)(C).

(13) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The terms “chair” and “vice chair” refer to the chair and vice chair of the Commission appointed under paragraph (3)(A).

(B) The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SA 4149. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1036. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program Act of 2021”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) terrorist and violent extremist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(2) poor governance, political and economic marginalization, and lack of accountability for human rights abuses by security forces are drivers of extremism;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States—

(A) to combat the spread of terrorism and violent extremism; and

(B) to build the capacity of partner countries to combat such threats in Africa;

(4) terrorist and violent extremist organizations exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), corruption, and weak governance; and

(5) a comprehensive, coordinated inter-agency approach is needed to develop an effective strategy—

(A) to address the security challenges in the Sahel-Maghreb;

(B) to appropriately allocate resources and de-conflict programs; and

(C) to maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

(c) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to assist countries in North Africa and West Africa, and other allies and partners that are active in those regions, in combating terrorism and violent extremism through a coordinated inter-agency approach with a consistent strategy that appropriately balances security activities with diplomatic and development efforts to address the political, socioeconomic, governance, and development challenges in North Africa and West Africa that contribute to terrorism and violent extremism.

(d) **TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**—

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership program, which shall be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program” (referred to in this subsection as the “Program”), to coordinate all programs, projects, and activities of the United States Government in countries in North Africa and West Africa that are conducted—

(i) to improve governance and the capacities of countries in North Africa and West Africa to deliver basic services, particularly to at-risk communities, as a means of countering terrorism and violent extremism by enhancing state legitimacy and authority and countering corruption;

(ii) to address the factors that make people and communities vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist and violent extremist organizations, including economic vulnerability and mistrust of government and government security forces, through activities such as—

(I) supporting strategies that increase youth employment opportunities;

(II) promoting girls’ education and women’s political participation;

(III) strengthening local governance and civil society capacity;

(IV) improving government transparency and accountability;

(V) fighting corruption;

(VI) improving access to economic opportunities; and

(VII) other development activities necessary to support community resilience;

(iii) to strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including by enhancing the capability of the judicial institutions to independently, transparently, and credibly deter, investigate, and prosecute acts of terrorism and violent extremism;

(iv) to improve the ability of military and law enforcement entities in partner countries—

(I) to detect, disrupt, respond to, and prosecute violent extremist and terrorist activity, while respecting human rights; and

(II) to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism and counter-extremism efforts;

(v) to enhance the border security capacity of partner countries, including the ability to monitor, detain, and interdict terrorists;

(vi) to identify, monitor, disrupt, and counter the human capital and financing pipelines of terrorism; or

(vii) to support the free expression and operations of independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, while countering the media operations and recruitment propaganda of terrorist and violent extremist organizations.

(B) **ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.**—Program activities shall—

(i) be carried out in countries in which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development—

(I) determines that there is an adequate level of partner country commitment; and

(II) has considered partner country needs, absorptive capacity, sustainment capacity, and efforts of other donors in the sector;

(ii) have clearly defined outcomes;

(iii) be closely coordinated among United States diplomatic and development missions, United States Africa Command, and relevant participating departments and agencies;

(iv) have specific plans with robust indicators to regularly monitor and evaluate outcomes and impact;

(v) complement and enhance efforts to promote democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, and economic growth;

(vi) in the case of train and equip programs, complement longer-term security sector institution-building; and

(vii) have mechanisms in place to track resources and routinely monitor and evaluate the efficacy of relevant programs.

(C) **CONSULTATION.**—In coordinating activities through the Program, the Secretary of State shall consult, as appropriate, with the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies, as determined by the President.

(D) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated through the Program under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State shall notify the appropriate congressional committees, in accordance with section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), of—

(i) the foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes described in subparagraph (A);

(ii) the amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided;

(iii) the absorptive capacity of the foreign country to effectively implement the assistance to be provided;

(iv) the extent to which state security forces of the foreign country have been implicated in gross violations of human rights and the risk that obligated funds may be used to perpetrate further abuses;

(v) the anticipated implementation timeline for the activity; and

(vi) the plans to sustain any military or security equipment provided beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(3) **INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION.**—Efforts carried out under this subsection—

(A) shall take into account partner country counterterrorism, counter-extremism, and development strategies;

(B) shall be aligned with such strategies, to the extent practicable; and

(C) shall be coordinated with counterterrorism and counter-extremism activities and programs in the areas of defense, diplomacy, and development carried out by other like-minded donors and international organizations in the relevant country.

(4) **STRATEGIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and other relevant Federal Government agencies, shall submit the strategies described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(B) **COMPREHENSIVE, 5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL-MAGHREB.**—The Secretary of State shall develop a comprehensive, 5-year strategy for the Sahel-Maghreb, including details related to whole-of-government efforts in the areas of defense, diplomacy, and development to advance the national security, economic, and humanitarian interests of the United States, including—

(i) efforts to ensure coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, such as the Joint Force of the Group of Five of the Sahel, and with other relevant assistance frameworks;

(ii) a public diplomacy strategy and actions to ensure that populations in the Sahel-Maghreb are aware of the development activities of the United States Government, especially in countries with a significant Department of Defense presence or engagement through train and equip programs;

(iii) activities aimed at supporting democratic institutions and countering violent extremism with measurable goals and transparent benchmarks;

(iv) plans to help each partner country address humanitarian and development needs and to help prevent, respond to, and mitigate intercommunal violence;

(v) a comprehensive plan to support security sector reform in each partner country that includes a detailed section on programs and activities being undertaken by relevant stakeholders and other international actors operating in the sector; and

(vi) a specific strategy for Mali that includes plans for sustained, high-level diplomatic engagement with stakeholders, including countries in Europe and the Middle East with interests in the Sahel-Maghreb, regional governments, relevant multilateral organizations, signatory groups of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, done in Algiers July 24, 2014, and civil society actors.

(C) **A COMPREHENSIVE 5-YEAR STRATEGY FOR PROGRAM COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.**—The Secretary of State shall develop a comprehensive 5-year strategy for the Program that includes—

(i) a clear statement of the objectives of United States counterterrorism efforts in North Africa and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism, including efforts—

(I) to build military and civilian law enforcement capacity;

(II) to strengthen the rule of law;

(III) to promote responsive and accountable governance; and

(IV) to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism;

(i) a plan for coordinating programs through the Program pursuant to paragraph (2)(A), including identifying the agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, that will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program;

(iii) a plan to monitor, evaluate, and share data and learning about the Program in accordance with monitoring and evaluation provisions under sections 3 and 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 2394c note and 2394c); and

(iv) a plan for ensuring coordination and compliance with related requirements in United States law, including the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.).

(D) CONSULTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees regarding the progress made towards developing the strategies required under subparagraphs (B) and (C).

(5) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall include a description of the requirements, activities, and planned allocation of amounts requested by the Program in the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the President's annual budget request pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, for each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for the following 5 years.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to activities of the Department of Defense conducted pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code.

(6) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(A) the progress made in meeting the objectives of the strategies required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (4), including any lessons learned in carrying out Program activities and any recommendations for improving such programs and activities;

(B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-conflict, and streamline Program activities to maximize resource effectiveness;

(C) the extent to which each partner country has demonstrated the ability to absorb the equipment or training provided in the previous year under the Program, and as applicable, the ability to maintain and appropriately utilize such equipment;

(D) the extent to which each partner country is investing its own resources to advance the goals described in paragraph (2)(A) or is demonstrating a commitment and willingness to cooperate with the United States to advance such goals;

(E) the actions taken by the government of each partner country receiving assistance under the Program to combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of democratic governance;

(F) the extent to which state security forces in each partner country have been implicated in gross violations of human rights during the reporting period, including how such gross violations of human rights have been addressed and or will be addressed through Program activities;

(G) the assistance provided in each of the 3 preceding fiscal years under the Program, broken down by partner country, including the type, statutory authorization, and purpose of all United States security assistance provided to the country pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense; and

(H) any changes or updates to the Comprehensive 5-Year Strategy for the Program required under paragraph (4)(C) necessitated by the findings in this annual report.

(7) REPORTING REQUIREMENT RELATED TO AUDIT OF BUREAU OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS MONITORING AND COORDINATION OF THE TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter until the earlier of the date on which all 13 recommendations in the September 2020 Department of State Office of Inspector General audit entitled “Audit of the Department of State Bureau of African Affairs Monitoring and Coordination of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program” (AUD-MERO-20-42) are closed or the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that identifies—

(A) which of the 13 recommendations in AUD-MERO-20-42 have not been closed;

(B) a description of progress made since the last report toward closing each recommendation identified under subparagraph (A);

(C) additional resources needed, including assessment of staffing capacity, if any, to complete action required to close each recommendation identified under subparagraph (A); and

(D) the anticipated timeline for completion of action required to close each recommendation identified under subparagraph (A), including application of all recommendations into all existing security assistance programs managed by the Department of State under the Program.

(8) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to Congress that describes plans for conducting a written review of a representative sample of each of the security assistance programs administered by the Bureau of African Affairs that—

(A) identifies potential waste, fraud, abuse, inefficiencies, or deficiencies; and

(B) includes an analysis of staff capacity, including human resource needs, available resources, procedural guidance, and monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that the Bureau of African Affairs is managing programs efficiently and effectively.

(9) FORM.—The strategies required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (4) and the report required under paragraph (6) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as authorizing the use of military force.

SA 4150. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed

to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle H—U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “U.S.-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021”.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States and Greece are strong allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and have deepened their defense relationship in recent years in response to growing security challenges in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

(2) Greece participates in several NATO missions, including Operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean and NATO's mission in Kosovo.

(3) The Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94), authorized new security assistance for Greece and Cyprus, lifted the United States prohibition on arms transfers to Cyprus, and authorized the establishment of a United States-Eastern Mediterranean Energy Center to facilitate energy cooperation among the United States, Greece, Israel, and Cyprus.

(4) The United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus through joint engagement with Cyprus, Greece, Israel, and the United States in the “3+1” format.

(5) The United States and Greece have held Strategic Dialogue meetings in Athens, Washington D.C., and virtually, and have committed to hold an upcoming Strategic Dialogue session in 2021 in Washington, D.C.

(6) In October 2019, the United States and Greece agreed to update the United States-Greece Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, and the amended agreement officially entered into force on February 13, 2020.

(7) The amended Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement provides for increased joint United States-Greece and NATO activities at Greek military bases and facilities in Larissa, Stefanovikio, Alexandroupolis, and other parts of central and northern Greece, and allows for infrastructure improvements at the United States Naval Support Activity Souda Bay base on Crete.

(8) In October 2020, Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias announced that Greece hopes to further expand the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement with the United States.

(9) The United States Naval Support Activity Souda Bay serves as a critical naval logistics hub for the United States Navy's 6th Fleet.

(10) In June 2020, United States Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey Pyatt characterized the importance of Naval Support Activity Souda Bay as “our most important platform for the projection of American power into a strategically dynamic Eastern Mediterranean region. From Syria to Libya to the chokepoint of the Black Sea, this is a critically important asset for the United States, as our air force, naval, and other resources are applied to support our Alliance obligations and to help bring peace and stability.”.

(11) During a September 2020 visit to Souda Bay, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo